

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-60 (Cancelled).

61. (Currently amended) A toy system comprising an encoder for encoding a data signal to form a spread signal, an electro-acoustic transducer for converting the spread signal into a corresponding acoustic signal, and a toy responsive to the ~~data signal within the spread~~ acoustic signal, wherein:

the encoder comprises: (i) ~~means for receiving~~ a first receiver operable to receive the data signal; (ii) ~~means for spreading~~ a spreader operable to spread the received data signal to form a spread signal; and (iii) ~~output means for outputting~~ an output operable to output the spread signal,

and wherein the toy comprises: (i) ~~an electro-acoustic~~ acousto-electric transducer ~~for receiving and for converting~~ operable to receive and convert the acoustic signal into a corresponding electrical signal; (ii) a decoder operable to de-spread ~~for de-spreading~~ the electrical signal obtained from said acousto-electric transducer, in order to regenerate the data signal; and (iii) ~~response means~~ a responder responsive to the data signal.

62. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 61, wherein the encoder further comprises:

~~means for receiving~~ a second receiver operable to receive an audio track;

~~means for combining~~ a combiner operable to combine the spread signal with the audio track to generate a modified audio track; and

~~means for outputting~~ an output operable to output the modified audio track.

63. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 61, wherein the encoder further comprises ~~modulating means for modulating~~ a modulator operable to modulate the data signal before being spread or ~~modulating~~ to modulate the spread data signal.

64. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 61, wherein the ~~means for spreading the received data signal~~ spreader comprises a first pseudo-noise code generator operable to generate a first pseudo-noise code comprising a sequence of chips, and is operable to perform direct sequence spread spectrum encoding using the first pseudo-noise code.

65. (Withdrawn) A toy system according to claim 64, wherein the first pseudo-noise code generator is operable to generate a 12 bit code having 4095 chips.

66. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 64, wherein the ~~spreading means~~ spreader is operable to combine each data element of the data signal with a part of the first pseudo-noise code.

67. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 66, wherein the ~~spreading means~~ spreader is arranged to multiply each data element of the data signal by a sequence of two hundred and fifty-six chips of the first pseudo-noise code.

68. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 64, wherein the ~~spreading means~~ spreader further comprises a second pseudo-noise code generator operable to generate a second pseudo-noise code which is different to the first pseudo-noise code,

and the ~~spreading means is~~ spreader being arranged to combine each data element of the data signal with a chip sequence from either the first pseudo-noise code or the second pseudo-noise code in dependence upon the value of the data element.

69. (Withdrawn) A toy system according to claim 68, wherein the second pseudo-noise code generator is operable to generate a second pseudo-noise code orthogonal to the first pseudo-noise code.

70. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 1, wherein the encoder further comprises ~~scaling means for scaling~~ a scaler operable to scale the spread signal.

71. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 70, wherein the decoder further comprises ~~de-scaling means for removing~~ a de-scaler operable to remove the scaling applied by the ~~scaling means~~ scaler.

72. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 70, wherein the ~~scaling means~~ scaler is operable to perform a frequency dependent scaling.

73. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 72, wherein the ~~scaling means~~ scaler is operable to increase the proportion of the energy at lower frequencies.

74. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 73, wherein the ~~scaling means~~ scaler is arranged to apply a frequency-dependent scaling function having a frequency dependence between $1/f$ and $1/f^2$, where f is the frequency.

75. (Withdrawn) A toy system according to claim 73, wherein the scaling function is approximately inverse to the sensitivity of a human ear.

76. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 62, wherein the encoder further comprises ~~scaling means for scaling~~ a scaler operable to scale the spread signal and a power monitor operable to output a signal indicative of the power in the audio track to the ~~scaling means~~ scaler, and wherein the ~~scaling means~~ scaler is operable to vary the applied scaling in dependence upon the power signal output by the power monitor.

77. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 76, wherein the ~~scaling means~~ scaler is operable to adjust the power in the spread signal to be a fixed amount below the power in the audio track, unless the power of the audio track is below a threshold in which case the power of the spread signal is set at a predetermined level.

78. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 62, wherein the encoder further comprises ~~scaling means for scaling~~ a scaler operable to scale the spread signal and a psycho-acoustic analysis system for determining theoretical minimum audible sound levels in the presence of the audio track, and wherein the ~~scaling means~~ scaler is operable to scale the spread signal in accordance with the determined theoretical minimum audible sound levels.

79. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 78, wherein the ~~scaling means~~ scaler is operable to scale the power of the spread signal to be at or above the determined minimum audible sound level.

80. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 79, wherein the ~~scaling means~~ scaler is operable to scale the power of the spread signal to be a predetermined amount above the theoretical minimum audible level.

81. (Withdrawn) A toy system according to claim 78, wherein the psycho-acoustic analysis system is operable to analyse the audio track in segments whose duration corresponds to the duration of an integer number of data elements of the data signal, and wherein the encoder is operable: (i) to scale a portion of the spread signal corresponding to one data element of the data signal in accordance with the minimum audible sound level calculated for a segment of the audio track; and (ii) to subsequently combine said portion of the spread signal with said segment of the audio track.

82. (Withdrawn) A toy system according to claim 81, wherein the decoder does not include a de-scaling unit.

83. (Withdrawn) A toy system according to claim 78, wherein the psycho-acoustic analysis unit is operable to generate frequency-dependent scaling factors

corresponding to a segment of the audio track in accordance with the frequency spectrum of that segment.

84. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 64, further comprising ~~demodulating means for demodulating~~ a demodulator operable to demodulate the electrical signal,

wherein the ~~de-spreading means~~ decoder comprises a third pseudo-noise code generator operable to generate a third pseudo-noise code identical to the first pseudo-noise code, and the ~~de-spreading means~~ decoder is operable to synchronously multiply the demodulated signal by the third pseudo-noise code to form the de-spread signal.

85. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 64, wherein the decoder of the toy comprises:

~~demodulating means for demodulating~~ a demodulator operable to demodulate the de-spread signal to form a demodulated signal, and

~~wherein the de-spreading means comprises~~ a third pseudo-noise code generator operable to generate a third pseudo-noise code identical to the first pseudo-noise code, and the ~~de-spreading means is~~ decoder being operable to synchronously multiply the electrical signal by the third pseudo-noise code to form the de-spread signal.

86. (Withdrawn) A toy system according to claim 84, wherein the decoder comprises a rake receiver having a plurality of prongs, and the decoder is operable to

introduce different time delays between the electrical signal and the third pseudo-noise code in each prong of the rake receiver, in order to de-spread different components of the electrical signal.

87. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 84, wherein the decoder further comprises a synchronisation circuit ~~for synchronising~~ operable to synchronise the third pseudo-noise code with a code sequence conveyed by the electrical signal.

88. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 87, wherein the synchronisation circuit comprises:

a correlator ~~for generating~~ operable to generate a time-varying output dependent on the similarity of a chip sequence conveyed by the electrical signal and a predetermined chip sequence; and

a normalisation circuit operable to scale the time-varying output of the correlator by a normalisation factor determined from the average value of the time-varying output over a predetermined period of time.

89. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 88, wherein the normalisation circuit comprises ~~means for calculating~~ a calculator operable to calculate a running average of the time-varying output over the predetermined period of time.

90. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 87, wherein the synchronisation circuit comprises:

a correlator ~~for generating~~ operable to generate a time-varying output by correlating a chip sequence conveyed by the electrical signal and a predetermined chip sequence;

a cross-correlator ~~for cross-correlating~~ operable to cross-correlate the output of the correlator over a first time period with the output of the correlator over a second time period; and

~~means for determining~~ a determiner operable to determine a frequency offset between the frequency at which the third pseudo-noise code generator generates the third pseudo-noise code and the frequency of the code sequence conveyed by the electrical signal from the output of the cross-correlator.

91. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 87, wherein the synchronisation circuit comprises:

a correlator ~~for generating~~ operable to generate a time-varying output by correlating a chip sequence conveyed by the electrical signal and a predetermined chip sequence;

a cross-correlator ~~for cross-correlating~~ operable to cross-correlate the output of the correlator over a first time period with the output of the correlator over a second time period; and

~~means for determining~~ a determiner operable to determine the difference between the chip rate of the predetermined chip sequence and the chip rate of the chip sequence conveyed by the electrical signal from the output of the cross-correlator.

92. (Withdrawn) A toy system according to claim 90, further comprising a normalisation circuit operable to scale the time-varying output of the correlator by a normalisation factor determined from the average value of the time-varying output over a predetermined period of time.

93. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 92, wherein the normalisation circuit comprises ~~means for calculating~~ a running average calculator operable to calculate a running average of the time-varying output over the predetermined period of time.

94. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 87, wherein the synchronisation circuit comprises:

a plurality of correlators, each correlator arranged to generate a time-varying output dependent by correlating a chip sequence conveyed by the electrical signal and a respective predetermined chip sequence; and

~~means for controlling~~ a controller operable to control the third pseudo-noise code generator in accordance with the outputs of the plurality of correlators,

wherein the respective predetermined chip sequences have the same chip rate.

95. (Withdrawn) A toy system according to claim 94, wherein the plurality of correlators are cascaded in series.

96. (Withdrawn) A toy system according to claim 94, wherein the plurality of correlators are connected in parallel.

97. (Withdrawn) A toy system according to claim 94, further comprising a plurality of normalisation circuits, each normalisation circuit being operable to scale the time-varying output of a respective one of the plurality of correlators by a normalisation factor determined from the average of the time-varying output of that correlator over a predetermined period of time.

98. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 97, wherein the normalisation circuit comprises ~~means for calculating a running average~~ calculator operable to calculate a running average of the time-varying output over the predetermined period of time.

99. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 87, wherein the synchronisation circuit further comprises:

a plurality of cross-correlators, each cross-correlator being arranged to cross-correlate the output of a respective one of the plurality of correlators over a first time period with the output of that respective correlator over a second time period;

~~means for adding~~ an adder operable to add the outputs of each of the cross-correlators; and

~~means for determining~~ a determiner operable to determine a frequency offset between the frequency at which the third pseudo-noise code generator generates the third pseudo-noise code and the frequency of the spreading code in the electrical signal from the output of the ~~adding means~~ adder.

100. (Withdrawn) A toy system according to claim 88, wherein the or each correlator is formed by a matched filter.

101. (Currently amended) A toy system according to claim 61, wherein the ~~response means~~ responder is operable to generate an output that is discernible to human beings.

102. (Currently amended) A toy system according to claim 101, wherein the ~~response means~~ responder is operable to cause the toy to output an acoustic signal determined using the data signal.

103. (Currently amended) A toy system according to claim 102, wherein the ~~response means~~ responder comprises a processor operable to select one of a plurality of sound files stored in a memory in dependence upon a content of the data signal, and to output the selected sound file via an electro-acoustic transducer.

104. (Previously presented) A toy system according to claim 103, wherein the memory is detachable.

105. (Currently amended) A toy system according to claim 101, wherein the ~~response means~~ responder is arranged to cause the toy to display a visual signal determined using the data signal.

106. (Currently amended) A toy system according to claim 101, wherein the ~~response means~~ responder is operable to cause a movement of the toy in dependence upon a content of the data signal.

107. (Currently amended) A toy system according to claim 101, wherein the ~~response means~~ responder is operable to cause a movement of part of the toy relative to the rest of the toy in dependence upon a content of the data signal.

108. (Currently amended) A toy system according to claim 61, wherein the toy further comprises:

~~means for generating~~ a generator operable to generate a data signal;

~~means for spreading~~ a spreader operable to spread the generated data signal to form a spread signal; and

an electro-acoustic transducer operable to receive and to convert ~~for receiving and converting~~ the spread signal into an acoustic signal.

109. (Withdrawn) A toy system according to claim 61, wherein the encoder forms part of a television broadcast system, and the electro-acoustic transducer is formed by a loudspeaker of a television set.

110. (Withdrawn) A toy system according to claim 62, wherein the audio track is the audio track of a television programme, and the data signal is operable to enable the toy to interact with the television programme.

111. (Withdrawn) A toy system according to claim 62, in which the modified audio track is recorded on a recording medium, and the toy system further comprises a reproducing apparatus, including the electro-acoustic transducer, for reproducing the modified audio track stored on the recording medium.

112. (Withdrawn) A toy system according to claim 111, wherein the recording medium is a compact disc.

113. (Withdrawn) A toy system according to claim 111, wherein the recording medium is a video cassette.

114. (Cancelled)

115. (Currently amended) A toy comprising:
an ~~electro-acoustic~~ acousto-electric transducer ~~for receiving and for converting~~
operable to receive and to convert an acoustic signal into an electrical signal; and
a decoder ~~for decoding~~ operable to decode a data signal conveyed by the
acoustic signal, the decoder comprising ~~means for de-spreading~~ a de-spreader
operable to de-spread the electrical signal obtained from the acousto-electric transducer
and ~~means for regenerating~~ a regenerator operable to regenerate the data signal from
the de-spread signal.

116. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A method of controlling a toy, the method comprising the steps of:
generating a ~~control~~ data signal at a control centre;
spreading the ~~control~~ data signal;
combining the ~~control~~ data signal with an audio track to form a modified audio track;
transmitting the modified audio track to an electro-acoustic transducer in the vicinity of the toy;

converting the modified audio track into an acoustic signal at the electro-acoustic transducer;

converting the acoustic signal received by the toy into an electrical signal;

de-spreading the electrical signal obtained by converting the acoustic signal to generate a de-spread signal;

regenerating the ~~control~~ data signal from the de-spread signal; and

controlling the toy in accordance with ~~the control~~ a content of the data signal.

117. (Cancelled)

118. (Cancelled)

119. (Withdrawn) A toy system according to claim 85, wherein the decoder comprises a rake receiver having a plurality of prongs, and the decoder is operable to introduce different time delays between the electrical signal and the third pseudo-noise code in each prong of the rake receiver, in order to de-spread different components of the electrical signal.

120. (Withdrawn) A toy system according to claim 91, further comprising a normalisation circuit operable to scale the time-varying output of the correlator by a normalisation factor determined from the average value of the time-varying output over a predetermined period of time.

121. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy according to claim 115, wherein the ~~de-spreading means~~ de-spreader comprises a pseudo-noise code generator operable to generate a pseudo-noise code.

122. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy according to claim 121, wherein the ~~de-spreading means~~ de-spreader is operable to synchronously multiply the electrical signal by the pseudo-noise code to form the de-spread signal.

123. (Withdrawn) A toy according to claim 122, wherein the decoder comprises a rake receiver having a plurality of prongs, and the decoder is operable to introduce different time delays between the electrical signal and the pseudo-noise code in each prong of the rake receiver in order to de-spread different components of the electrical signal.

124. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy according to claim 122, wherein the toy further comprises a synchronisation circuit ~~for synchronising~~ operable to synchronise the pseudo-noise code with a code sequence conveyed by the electrical signal.

125. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy according to claim 124, wherein the synchronisation circuit comprises:

a correlator ~~for generating~~ operable to generate a time-varying output dependent on the similarity of a chip sequence conveyed by the electrical signal and a predetermined chip sequence; and

a normalisation circuit operable to scale the time-varying output of the correlator by a normalisation factor determined from the average value of the time-varying output over a predetermined period of time.

126. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy according to claim 125, wherein the normalisation circuit comprises ~~means for calculating~~ a running average calculator operable to calculate a running average of the time-varying output over the predetermined period of time.

127. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy according to claim 124, wherein the synchronisation circuit comprises:

a correlator ~~for generating~~ operable to generate a time-varying output by correlating a chip sequence conveyed by the electrical signal and a predetermined chip sequence;

a cross-correlator ~~for cross-correlating~~ operable to cross-correlate the output of the correlator over a first time period with the output of the correlator over a second time period; and

~~means for determining~~ a determiner operable to determine a frequency offset between the frequency at which the third pseudo-noise code generator generates the

third pseudo-noise code and the frequency of the code sequence conveyed by the electrical signal from the output of the cross-correlator.

128. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy according to claim 124, wherein the synchronisation circuit comprises:

a correlator ~~for generating~~ operable to generate a time-varying output by correlating a chip sequence conveyed by the electrical signal and a predetermined chip sequence;

a cross-correlator ~~for cross-correlating~~ operable to cross-correlate the output of the correlator over a first time period with the output of the correlator over a second time period; and

~~means for determining~~ a determiner operable to determine the difference between the chip rate of the predetermined chip sequence and the chip rate of the chip sequence conveyed by the electrical signal from the output of the cross-correlator.

129. (Withdrawn) A toy according to claim 127, further comprising a normalisation circuit operable to scale the time-varying output of the correlator by a normalisation factor determined from the average value of the time-varying output over a predetermined period of time.

130. (Withdrawn) A toy according to claim 128, further comprising a normalisation circuit operable to scale the time-varying output of the correlator by a

normalisation factor determined from the average value of the time-varying output over a predetermined period of time.

131. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 129, wherein the normalisation circuit comprises ~~means for calculating~~ a running average calculator operable to calculate a running average of the time-varying output over the predetermined period of time.

132. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy according to claim 124, wherein the synchronisation circuit comprises:

a plurality of correlators, each correlator arranged to generate a time-varying output dependent by correlating a chip sequence conveyed by the electrical signal and a respective predetermined chip sequence; and

~~means for controlling~~ a controller operable to control the third pseudo-noise code generator in accordance with the outputs of the plurality of correlators,

wherein the respective predetermined chip sequences have the same chip rate.

133. (Withdrawn) A toy according to claim 132, wherein the plurality of correlators are cascaded in series.

134. (Withdrawn) A toy according to claim 132, wherein the plurality of correlators are connected in parallel.

135. (Withdrawn) A toy according to claim 132, further comprising a plurality of normalisation circuits, each normalisation circuit being operable to scale the time-varying output of a respective one of the plurality of correlators by a normalisation factor determined from the average of the time-varying output of that correlator over a predetermined period of time.

136. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy according to claim 135, wherein the normalisation circuit comprises ~~means for calculating~~ a running average a calculator operable to calculate a running average of the time-varying output over the predetermined period of time.

137. (Withdrawn - currently amended) A toy system according to claim 124, wherein the synchronisation circuit further comprises:

a plurality of cross-correlators, each cross-correlator being arranged to cross-correlate the output of a respective one of the plurality of correlators over a first time period with the output of that respective correlator over a second time period;

~~means for adding~~ an adder operable to add the outputs of each of the cross-correlators; and

~~means for determining~~ a determiner operable to determine a frequency offset between the frequency at which the third pseudo-noise code generator generates the

third pseudo-noise code and the frequency of the spreading code in the electrical signal from the output of the ~~adding means~~ adder.

138. (Withdrawn) A toy according to claim 125, wherein the correlator is formed by a matched filter.

139. (Currently amended) A toy according to claim 115, ~~wherein the response means is~~ comprising a responder operable to generate an output that is discernible to human beings in dependence upon a content of the re-generated data signal.

140. (Currently amended) A toy according to claim 139, wherein the ~~response means~~ responder is operable to cause the toy to output an acoustic signal determined using the data signal.

141. (Currently amended) A toy according to claim 140, wherein the ~~response means~~ responder comprises a processor operable to select one of a plurality of sound files stored in a memory in dependence upon the content of the data signal, and to output the selected sound file via an electro-acoustic transducer.

142. (Previously presented) A toy according to claim 141, wherein the memory is detachable.

143. (Currently amended) A toy according to claim 139, wherein the ~~response means~~ responder is arranged to cause the toy to display a visual signal determined using the data signal.

144. (Currently amended) A toy according to claim 139, wherein the ~~response means~~ responder is operable to cause a movement of the toy in dependence upon the content of the data signal.

145. (Currently amended) A toy according to claim 139, wherein the ~~response means~~ responder is operable to cause a movement of part of the toy relative to the rest of the toy in dependence upon the content of the data signal.

146. (Currently amended) A toy according to claim 115, further comprising:

~~means for generating~~ a generator operable to generate a data signal;

~~means for spreading~~ a spreader operable to spread the generated data signal to form a spread signal; and

an electro-acoustic transducer ~~for receiving and converting~~ operable to receive and to convert the spread signal into an acoustic signal.